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HISTORY OF THE  
GEORGE WASHINGTON BOWMAN  
AND FISER FAMILIES  
OF MOOREVILLE, FALLS COUNTY, TEXAS

Leila Bowman A. Page

Bowman

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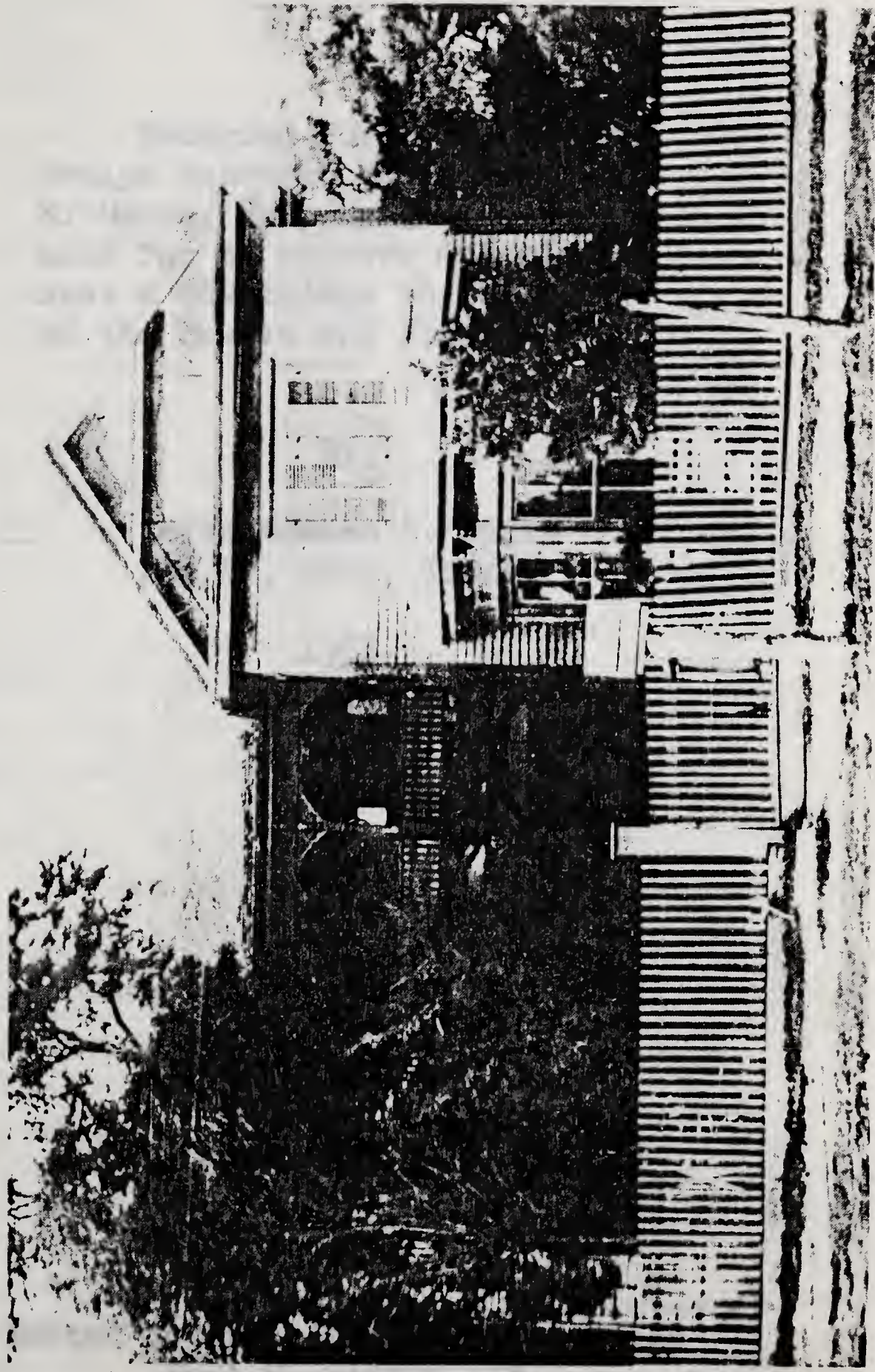
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The old homeplace of George Washington Bowman, which was located on a hill just east of Mooreville on the north side of Farm Road 107.

1913-14





HISTORY OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BOWMAN AND FISER  
FAMILIES OF MOOREVILLE, FALLS COUNTY, TEXAS

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Recorded for my daughter,  
Evelyn Ashworth Moore and John  
K. Moore, Jr., my grandson, and  
also for my nephews and nieces.  
Just a few things to remember,  
of the Bowman and Fiser families.

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By

Leila Bowman A. Page  
Box 26, Eddy, Texas

1961

Edited and published by her cousin  
Paul C. Wilson, Jr.  
P. O. Box 1091  
Galveston, Texas  
1962

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## EDITOR'S PREFACE

Let us begin this story of the Bowman family in South Carolina, where John Lewis Bowman was born on August 13, 1813. On February 13, 1834 he married Matilda Blackburn in South Carolina. Your editor has been unable to discover the names of the parents of John Lewis Bowman and Matilda Blackburn, or in which county in South Carolina they lived. Their first child, Georgia Ann Caroline Bowman, was born there on March 19, 1835. Their second child, Margaret Jane Bowman, was also born there on February 28, 1837. Sometime prior to September 14, 1839 John Lewis Bowman moved his family to recently opened Indian lands in Benton County, Alabama. Early deed records in this county were burned by Union troops during the Civil War, preventing your editor from discovering where the Bowman family lived there. Benton County was named for U. S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. In 1850 Senator Benton so angered the South, that the citizens of Alabama changed the county name to Calhoun County in honor of U. S. Senator John Caldwell Calhoun. William Warren Bowman, third child of John L. and Matilda Bowman, was born here on September 14, 1839.

The 1840 census of Benton County, Alabama, lists the John L. Bowman family as one male under 5, one male 20-30, one female under 5, one female 5-10, one female 20-30, one male slave under 10, 3 female slaves under 10, and one female slave 24-35. The other children born in Calhoun (Benton) County were Sarah Malinda Bowman (August 19, 1842), George Washington Bowman (December 28, 1844), Roseanna Emiline Bowman (January 7, 1847), John Taylor Bowman (February 24, 1850) (your editor's great-grandfather), Mary Isabella Bowman (June 24, 1852), and Lenora Ledora Bowman (October 12, 1854).





The 1850 census of the 30th District of Benton County, Alabama, lists the Bowman family as follows:

John L. Bowman,	36,	Farmer,	born in S. C.
Matilda	" 37	" "	" "
Georgia Ann	" 14	" "	" "
M. Jane	" 13	" "	" "
Wm. Warren	" 8	" "	Ala.
Sarah M.	" 7	" "	" "
G. Washington	" 5	" "	" "
Rosannah E.	" 4	" "	" "
J. Taylor	" $\frac{1}{2}$	" "	" "

(John L. Bowman owned no slaves in 1850)

Sometime prior to April 11, 1858 John L. Bowman again moved his family, this time to Brazos County, Texas. He purchased 640 acres of the Thomas B. Clark tract near the intersection of Farm Road 1179 and Bowman Creek, about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  miles northeast from the center of Bryan, Texas. Here on April 11, 1858 Georgia Ann Caroline Bowman was married to Wilson Reed, a prosperous farmer and widower, born September 23, 1811, who had been in Texas since 1831, and in Brazos County since 1840. On June 14, 1860 William Warren Bowman married Sarah E. Stewart. Your editor has not been able to find out in which county they were married. The 1860 census of Brazos County, Texas, lists the Bowman family as follows:

John L. Bowman,	47,	Farmer
Matilda	" 47,	Seamstress
Margaret J.	" 22,	Seamstress
Sarah C.	" 18,	Seamstress
Geo. W.	" 14,	Attends school
Rosana E.	" 12,	Attends school
John T.	" 10,	Attends school
Mary I.	" 8	
Lenora	" 6	

(Continued on next page)





W. W. Bowman, 20, Laborer  
Sarah           "     19, Seamstress

One male black slave, age 40  
One female mulatto slave, age 18

In 1861 John L. Bowman moved his family and slaves to Falls County, Texas. He still paid taxes on his Brazos County property, but did not own land in Falls County. Where he resided in Falls County is not known.

On January 1, 1861 Margaret Jane Bowman was married to Leonidas F. ("Lon") Bowman. The county in which this marriage took place is not known. Leonidas F. Bowman was born in Mississippi on January 10, 1840. His parents were Thomas C. and Mary Bowman, both born in Tennessee. In 1850 they were living in Brazos County, Texas. They are buried in the Tyron Cemetery in Brazos County. She was born March 28, 1809 and died May 1, 1874. He was born January 20, 1807 and died November 15, 1879. (1)

On March 26, 1862 William Warren Bowman enlisted at Boonville in Brazos County in Captain L. J. Wilson's Company ("I") of the 21st Texas Cavalry, C. S. A. This was the only organization from Brazos County in the Confederate service in the Civil War. Boonville was located about three miles east of Bryan on Farm Road 158. All that is left is a cemetery and a historical marker. Jones Connally, the father of former U. S. Senator Tom Connally, was a sergeant in Company I. W. H. Bowman (probably William H. Bowman, son of James Iredell and Eliza W. Bowman) was First Lieutenant. Leonidas F. Bowman was a private. H. Bowman and A. Bowman (probably Henry

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(1) "Pioneers of Brazos County, Texas 1800-1850,"  
W. Broadus Smith, 1962, p 23.





and Albert Bowman, sons of Thomas C. and Mary Bowman) were also privates. (2) William Warren Bowman is listed as Private W. W. Bowman, age 23, on the muster roll of Captain L. J. Wilson's Company for April 16, 1862, according to the National Archives, Washington, D. C. Other members of the Bowman family are said to have been in Confederate service, but no record was found of their service, other than the fact that a Private G. W. Bowman enlisted January 1, 1863 in Company A, 30th Texas Cavalry. The 30th Texas Cavalry was commanded by Colonel Edward J. Gurley, an attorney of Waco and was recruited largely from McLennan County. (3) Private G. W. Bowman may have been our George Washington Bowman.

The microfilm copies of State tax records of the Comptroller of Public Accounts in the basement of the State Capitol, Austin, list the tax payments by John L. Bowman. In 1864, for example, he was living in Falls County where he declared two slaves at \$1,600, \$300 in Confederate notes, \$900 in livestock, and the 640 acres of land he owned in Brazos County. In 1864 persons who declared cash in gold paid their tax in gold, but persons who declared cash in Confederate notes paid their tax in Confederate notes.

John Lewis Bowman died on February 18, 1867. Falls County probate records list the date erroneously as 1869. He left a verbal will, witnessed by Leonidas F. Bowman and William L. C. Graham, naming

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- (2) "The History of Brazos County, Texas," Elmer Grady Marshall, August 1937, pp 78-80.  
"History of Falls County, Texas," Old Settlers and Veterans Association of Falls County, Texas, 1947, p 137.
- (3) "Highlights of Waco History," Roger Norman Conger, 1945, p 47.





his wife as heir. His estate was composed of 640 acres of land in Brazos County, 3 or 8 horses, 2 mules, 200 head of cattle, 50 head of sheep, 30 head of hogs and one wagon. He is buried in the Bowman lot on the hill at the rear of the cemetery at Mooreville, Falls, County, Texas.

Sarah Malinda Bowman died May 16, 1868 and William Warren Bowman died May 26, 1868. They are buried on the hill at Mooreville. It is not known whether William Warren Bowman left any children, or what happened to his wife.

On May 23, 1869 George Washington Bowman married Katherine Bates Fiser, and on January 5, 1869 Roseanna Emiline Bowman was married to Leander Fiser in Falls County. The 1870 census of Falls County, Texas, lists the family as follows:

Matilda Bowman,	58,	Keeping house
John	"	21, Farm laborer
Amalia	"	18
Eleanor	"	16

George Bowman,	24,	Farm laborer
Catharine	"	18

Lukas Bowman,	32,	Farmer, born in Miss.
Margaret	"	33 " " Ala.
Eugene	"	10 " " Tex.
Mathilda	"	4 " " "
Lee	"	3 " " "
Priscilla	"	1 " " "

William Feiser,	21,	Farm laborer, born Tex.
Emma	"	22 " Ala.
Anna	"	1 " Tex.





On January 11, 1872 Mary Isabella ("Mollie") Bowman was married to Jacob Wood Morris. The county in which this marriage took place is not known. On October 27, 1874 Lenora Ledora Bowman was married to Andrew Mack Fiser, and on April 1, 1875 John Taylor Bowman married Sarah Carmensita Rubel (or Ruble), daughter of Aaron Rubel and Sarah Ellen Smalley, in Falls County. On September 11, 1875 Lenora Ledora (Bowman) Fiser died, and was buried on the hill at Mooreville. The 1880 census of Falls County, Texas, lists the family as follows:

J. T. Bowman,	30,	Farmer
Carmencita	" 23	
Walter	" 3	
Horace	" 2	
Theodore	" 1	(your editor's grandfather)
Ruble	" 2/12	
Sabra Ruble	19,	Sister-in-law

Lee Fizer,	37,	Farmer
E. R.	" 32	
Anna	" 10	
Frank	" 8	
Andrew	" 6	
Nellie	" 3	
Molly	" 1	

Lon G. Bowman,	40,	Farmer
M. J.	" 42	
E. G.	" 18	
M. W.	" 14	
Lee	" 12	
Pricilla	" 10	
G. A.	" 7	
Thomas	" 5	
John	" 4	





G. W. Bowman,	35
Catharine "	27
Sallie "	10
Ida "	7
Lela "	4 (your author)
Mary A. "	2
Georgia "	4/12
Matilda "	67, Parents born in S. C.

The obituary of Matilda (Blackburn) Bowman is worth quoting. The following is from a copy in the hands of Mrs. Page:

"BOWMAN - Matilda Bowman died in great peace in the midst of her children, grandchildren and many friends at the residence of her son, G. W. Bowman, in Mooreville, Falls County, Texas. She was born in South Carolina, March 22, 1813, and died June 1, 1883. For more than 50 years she was a worthy, faithful and useful member of the Methodist Church; always in the path of duty; never absent unless sick, from Sunday School, love-feast, class meetings, and always on time. She lived right, she was ready, she said, to depart and be with her husband and three children, and others who had preceded her to the better land. She leaves six children and a host of friends to mourn their loss. Her funeral was preached by this scribe to a very large and attentive audience; and the largest funeral procession ever seen in Mooreville followed her to her grave. May we all meet her in heaven - Samuel Morriss."

END OF PREFACE





In beginning this story of the George Washington Bowman and Fiser families, I want to tell you where the Bowman and Fiser families came from, when and how they came to Texas, and something of Mooreville, where their children were born and reared, and where our parents are all buried.

Mooreville to most of us is a hallowed spot, with its sacred memories we will never forget. Carved out of the original Pedro Garza and the Ignacio Golindo grants, Falls County, Texas, is a valley landscape at the foot of towering hills. Nearly one hundred years ago, Robert Moore, a warm-hearted Irishman, built the first grocery and supply store there, and the spot where he located has been called Mooreville ever since.<sup>(4)</sup> The entire Mooreville section was gradually put into cultivation and its fertile and productive soil fielded great wealth. The population rapidly increased.

Schools and churches were erected. It is interesting to recount that all the older families mentioned in this writeup had many children, and most all of them were sooner or later educated at college. And with the passing of another generation, all had married and moved to other towns and cities to establish their homes and business.

In 1865, at the close of the war between the States, Willis A. Fiser, with his family and Uncles, came in caravans from Missouri to Texas. These caravans forded the Brazos River at Waco, and while camping at that little town, Reverend Prather, himself coming from Tennessee, visited the families in camp and enquired from whence they came. Finding that the Fisers were from Tennessee, he at once had

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(4) "Memories of the Hills of Home and Countryside,"  
Tom L. McCullough, 1939, p 1.





a friendly feeling, and suggested they locate a permanent camp on land which he owned near the Brazos River. This was done, and to their surprise he slaughtered a beef, and sent the Fisers a quarter thereof.

This Mr. Prather was the father of the late Wm. L. Prather, a lawyer of Waco, and President of the University of Texas. The Fisers secured a lease of land on Hog Creek in the northwestern section of McLennan County, just west of present day Waco. To this same community came the senior Ransford Henderson Jones and his sons Hardy and James.

Pretty soon the McCulloughs came with their families from Missouri, and located at Rock Dam, near the old settlement of Gurley on the Southern Pacific Railroad (north of the present town of Chilton) in Falls County.(5) Ed McCullough soon married Elizabeth Ann Fiser, and her sister Mary married Hardy Jones. Her brother, Leander ("Lee") Fiser, married Roseanna Emiline Bowman, her youngest sister, Katherine Bates Fiser, married George Washington Bowman, and her youngest brother, Andrew Mack Fiser, married Lenora Ledora ("Lee") Bowman. Notice that three Bowmans married Fisers. All of these families - Fisers, Jones and Bowmans - purchased homesites and improved their farms on Cow Bayou, twenty miles below Waco, in the vicinity of what is now Mooreville.(6)

George Washington Bowman's parents were John Lewis Bowman, born in South Carolina August 13,

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(5) For location of Gurley see map facing page 38 in "A History of Western Falls County, Texas," Lillian Schiller St. Romain, 1951.

(6) "Memories of the Hills of Home and Countryside," Tom L. McCullough, 1939, p 2.





1813 and died in Mooreville February 18, 1867; and Matilda Blackburn, born in South Carolina March 22, 1813 and died in Mooreville June 1, 1883. They were married in South Carolina February 13, 1834. They had nine children as follows: Georgia Ann Caroline Bowman, born March 19, 1835, who married Wilson Reed; Margaret Jane Bowman, born February 28, 1837, who married Leonidas F. ("Lon") Bowman (no kin); William Warren Bowman, born September 14, 1839, who married Sarah E. Stewart; Sarah Malinda Bowman, born August 19, 1842; George Washington Bowman, born December 28, 1844, who married Katherine Bates Fiser; Roseanna Emiline ("Emma") Bowman, born January 7, 1847 (7), who married Leander Fiser; John Taylor Bowman, born February 24, 1850, who married Sarah Carmensita ("Min" or "Mincy") Rubel (or Ruble); Mary Isabella Bowman, born June 24, 1852, who married Jacob Wood Morris; and Lenora Ledora Bowman, born October 12, 1854, who married Andrew Mack Fiser.

Katherine Bates Fiser was born October 3, 1852. She married George Washington Bowman on May 23, 1869. He died December 16, 1917 in Mooreville. She died February 25, 1923 in Mooreville. He was a prosperous landowner, a life-long member of the Methodist Church and the father of eleven children.

I will name the children of George W. and Katherine Bates Bowman in the order in which they were born. Sallie was the first and oldest. She was born February 23, 1870. She married A. J. Kincannon June 26, 1901. He was a big landowner and merchant and got his education from Eddy High School and Southwestern University at Georgetown. He was a Mason, a Shriner, a life-long Methodist, a Sunday school superintendent for thirty years, and a civic leader in all activities of Eddy and surrounding

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(7) Mrs. W. Charles Wilson reports this date as November 13, 1848.





towns. Sallie also went to Southwestern University at Georgetown.

Ida was next born to the Bowmans on August 5, 1873. She married S. A. Douglas August 5, 1896. He was a school teacher, who had his own private school in Waco. She taught with him most of the time. They had three children named Catherine, Stephen and Dorothy. Catherine Douglas married J. F. Collier. They had one boy, J. F. Collier, Jr., who graduated from Dallas High School and the A. & M. College of Texas. He served in World War II and married while in service to Ethel Elizabeth Stannard. They have three fine children named Jimmy, Candy and Glen. Stephen Douglas was born November 10, 1902. He married Machie Wilson. They had one daughter, Dorothy Jane. She married Vaughn Paul and they live in California. The Pauls have three children named Bren, Tripp and Steve. Dorothy Douglas was born September 10, 1904. She married Bolton Bruyere. They had one son, Bolton, Jr. Several years later she married Ray Justin. They live in Dallas where they have a nice home and are very happy. Bolton Bruyere, Jr. has two children named Rick and Judy.

Leila is next in the Bowman family. She was born February 6, 1876. She went to school in Mooreville, and graduated from Waco Female College, a Methodist school. She married E. L. Ashworth on June 7, 1899. E. L. Ashworth got his diploma from Sam Houston State Normal in Huntsville and from the High School in Pennington. He was a Mason and Shriner. Shortly after graduation he came to Mooreville and taught school several years. He soon went to work for the Cameron Lumber Co. in Eddy. In 1908 he moved his family of two children and wife to Eddy, where she still lives. E. L. Ashworth passed away December 2, 1911. They had four children - an infant daughter born July 26, 1900 and passed away July 27,





1900, George Elbert, Sidney L. born February 15, 1905 and passed away April 7, 1907, and Mary Evelyn. George E. Ashworth was born August 29, 1902. He attended school in Eddy, had some work in San Marcos Baptist Academy, and later had a business course in Waco. He later had charge of the Water Works here at Eddy for a number of years. His mother owned the Water Works for a while. After it was sold he went to work in the Rio Grande Valley, along the border there, and in Victoria and Palacios. At one time he managed a filling station in Temple. He had worked for the Government ten years when he died. He was a Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Methodist Church. He married Thelma Reed July 29, 1939. He passed away May 27, 1948. She graduated at Baylor University at Waco and has taught school for some years. She owns her home at Waco and still lives there. She has no children. Mary Evelyn Ashworth was born January 23, 1908. She graduated from Yoe High School in Cameron. She lived with Aunt Georgie and Uncle Jim Watson while there. She went to Southwestern University at Georgetown two years. She married John Moore September 14, 1927. He finished school here at Eddy and graduated from Baylor University at Waco. He was a Mason. They had one son, John K., Jr., who graduated from Temple High School, and had some work at Baylor University. He joined the Air Force, took his basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. Then he was at Connally Air Force Base for some time. From there he went to Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss. From there to Amarillo. From Amarillo he went to Colorado Springs July 16, 1958. He was there about one year. The time he signed up for expired. He did not re-enlist for some months, so he lost one stripe. His next move was to Labrador February 19, 1959. He soon won his stripe back. He was not too happy there, where he stayed fifteen months. He came home from Labrador June 14, 1960. He was home thirty days, then went to Brize Norton Air Base, England for three





years. He was there about eight months and fell in love with an English girl, Wendy Smith. They were married February 22, 1961. He is an Airman First Class now. Mary Evelyn worked at McCloskey General Hospital in Temple for three years, after her husband died. For the last four years she has been secretary in a Waco school. Leila married Thomas Lee Page September 16, 1916. He was a grocer merchant. They had one baby, Thomas L. Page, born January 20, 1918, passed away April 20, 1919.

Annie was the next child of George W. and Katherine Bates Bowman. She was born January 23, 1878. She never married. She too graduated from Waco Female College, a Methodist school, and had one year in Southwestern University at Georgetown. She stayed with her Mother and Father and looked after them as long as they lived. She later built a home in Waco where she lived until she got sick and moved to Cameron to live with a sister. She was a bed patient for six or eight years. She passed away in the home of Dr. and Mrs. James Watson March 5, 1953, and was buried in the cemetery at Mooreville by the side of her Mother and Father.

Georgie was the fifth daughter. She was born January 29, 1880. She too went to Southwestern University at Georgetown after finishing at Mooreville. She taught school a few years, and while visiting her sister Ethel in Rockdale, met Dr. Jim Watson. They were married April 23, 1913. He came to this country about 1900, and practiced dentistry until the time of his death or until he was disabled. He passed away January 20, 1958. He had service in the Spanish-American War.

Katy was next. She was born to the Bowmans February 24, 1882 and died March 17, 1882.

Eunice Ethel Bowman was born November 23, 1883 in Mooreville, where all the rest were born.





She finished school in Mooreville and graduated from what was at that time C. I. A. in Denton. She taught school a few years in Rockdale. There she met Edgar Will Gaither, a good businessman, who came to Texas from North Carolina, and they were married June 30, 1908. He was a promoter of all civic and church activities, a life-long member of the Methodist Church, and father of one child, Billie, born August 31, 1913. She graduated from Rockdale High School, attended school in Denton and attended Southwestern University at Georgetown. She married Weldon Hogan. They have one child, John Gaither Hogan.

Willie was the eighth girl for the Bowman family. She was born March 17, 1887. She finished school in Mooreville and attended school in Denton. There she met R. C. Rayzor and they were married May 24, 1906. They had two children named Eva Catherine and James Newton. Eva C. Rayzor graduated from Denton High School and C. I. A. She married Dr. J. F. Goff. They had two boys named Tommy and Bill. Both boys are married and doing well. Eva Catherine is teaching in a Dallas school. Dr. Goff died. James Newton Rayzor married and has no children. He and his wife live in Dallas.

Margaret was the ninth girl. She was born March 31, 1890. She married Roderick Jack Long, an Englishman. He emigrated to this country with his Uncle Charles Edward Long in about 1907. He had a good education from schools in England. He is tops when it comes to bookkeeping. He worked in Dallas a few years, then went to Waco. At the present time they live in Belton. They had two boys. Roderick, the oldest boy, was born May 10, 1917. He finished High School in Waco, where he was an honor student. He attended the A. & M. College of Texas at College Station one year. He passed away April 24, 1941. William Bowman Long was born in





Eddy, Texas, June 19, 1921 (the anniversary of the emancipation of the negro slaves in Texas). The Long family lived in Cameron several years. While there the boys Roderick and William came to Eddy on their bicycles. One boy was about 12 years old, the other about 9. They had their lunch and ate on the road, and called home at nearly every little town - Lott, Chilton and perhaps Rosebud. They came to visit their Aunts Sallie and Leila for a week. We all had a big time. When time came for them to go home, Uncle Jep, Aunt Sallie, Aunt Lee and Uncle T. took them back as far as Rosebud. There their Mother and Father met us and we all had a big lunch we carried with us. Now, that was a big week in my life. We enjoyed every minute the boys were with us. Happy Memories. After a few years the Longs moved to Waco. William graduated from Waco High School with honors. He belonged to the National Guard and later was in service. He married Mary Farrow in Dallas June 3, 1944. He served in California for several years, then spent several months overseas. After the Armistice was signed he moved to Houston, where he finished school. He is now located in Belton and is now William B. Long D.D.S. M.D. (General Dentistry). They have four children - William Farrow, born June 21, 1946; Daryl Elizabeth, born August 25, 1948; Robert John, born February 16, 1951; and Linda Sue, born April 4, 1953 in Sewell Long Hospital. **1919075**

The tenth child born to George W. and Katherine Bates Bowman was a boy, believe it or not. His name was John Mack and he was born May 18, 1893. You should have seen that bunch of girls getting in a huddle to make certain it was a boy, and sure enough it was. One of the prettiest little blue-eyed baby boys you ever saw. He was as smart as could be too. As soon as he got big enough he went to school in Mooreville. Later he and Kathleen went to Marlin High School. Annie went and kept house for them.





He attended the A. & M. College of Texas at College Station. He joined the Army on July 15, 1917, and was in the 36th Division. He was at Camp Bowie in Fort Worth one year. He was in Fort Worth during the dreadful flu epidemic, and came near dying as one out of ten did. Then he was sent to France. He drove an ambulance and his rank was Wagoner. His job was transporting the wounded soldiers from the front line to the Base Hospital. He was in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. After the Armistice was signed he was sent to Paris and served in detached service there for three months before returning to the United States. He was discharged June 19, 1919. Shortly after he came home he met Pearl Douglas Rogers. She was born in Athens, Alabama, September 26, 1902. He married her in Athens October 10, 1923. He rode the train to Athens. I asked him how he managed to get her, and he told me it was just luck. They had one child, a boy, George Bowman. He was born in Dallas August 6, 1924. They moved to Cameron when he was three. He grew up there under the wings of Uncle Jim and Aunt Georgie. While still a child he decided he would be a dentist and return to Cameron after finishing school and practice with Uncle Jim. In 1939 they all moved to Waco. He finished High School there, then went to Baylor University for his pre-dental work. In 1943 he moved to Dallas to enter Baylor University College of Dentistry. After his freshman year, he and Betty Caperton (8) were married June 18, 1944. Then he spent nineteen months in the U. S. Navy. Their first baby, Ann, was born on the day the first atom bomb was dropped, August 6, 1945, which was also her husband's birthday. This day was important to the Bowmans for many reasons. The atom bomb brought to an end World War II, and this saved George, in the nick of time, from being in the first wave of the beachhead invasion of the mainland of Japan. His orders had been issued for five months and he was awaiting shipment. He was discharged the

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(8) Your editor's classmate at Waco High in 1944.





following January 1946. In April George returned to Dental School for his sophomore year. The post-war accelerated program enabled him to go all year round without stopping for three months each summer. So on September 27, 1948 he was graduated from Baylor, and was now Dr. G. W. Bowman. They now had another baby, George II, born April 19, 1947. Now they moved to Cameron to fulfill his dream of returning to practice dentistry with Uncle Jim. During the last twelve and one-half years, the Bowmans have added four more children to their family - Betsy Jane, born July 2, 1949; James Eastland, born June 24, 1951; Mary Douglas, born June 3, 1953; and Laura Roberts, born February 27, 1956. At this time (1961) the Bowmans are eagerly awaiting Ann's trip to Europe as an exchange student. She will leave in July and be gone one year, living in the home of a German family just as if she were their own daughter. They here at home will have with them a student from the same town to which Ann will go, possibly from the same home. At this time Ann is busy studying German. The Bowmans are constantly busy with church and club work. (Ann lived with the parents of Dagmar von Schoeler in Augsburg, Germany, while Dagmar lived with Dr. and Mrs. Bowman and became band sweetheart of Yoe High School - editor, 1962)

Now the next Bowman (of the senior Bowmans) and last child is Kathleen. She was born March 25, 1896. She finished school in Mooreville, then she graduated from Marlin High School. She also finished C. I. A. at Denton. She married Dr. J. B. Jenkins. He was practicing medicine in Mooreville at that time. Their first baby, John Bill, was born there April 15, 1918. They lived in Mooreville a few years, then moved to Waxahachie. John Bill Jenkins graduated from Waxahachie High School and then went to the A. & M. College of Texas at College Station for his degree. He married Anna Margaret Urschel July 24, 1941. He entered the service in February 1942. He





was in the Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. He went overseas to Italy in January 1945. He returned home March 31, 1946. They lived in Waxahachie right after his return home. Then they were in Kerens for four months, then back to Waxahachie for one year, then to Corsicana for the next ten years, then to Dallas for nine months, and now they are in Albuquerque, where they moved on June 1, 1955. John Bill is the Chief Land Planner with the Federal Housing Administration, stationed in the Albuquerque office, and serving both the Albuquerque and Lubbock, Texas offices. John Bill and Anna Margaret have two girls - Carol Ann, born January 3, 1944; and Kathy, born July 16, 1948. Joe Mack was the other son born to Dr. and Mrs. Jenkins July 31, 1925. He finished High School in Waxahachie, then he went in service for the United States in 1943 when he was only about 18 years old. He served in Austin; Great Lakes, Illinois; San Diego, California; Norman, Oklahoma; and briefly in New York and San Francisco. When he went overseas he went first to Okinawa, after brief stops in Hawaii, and a few other Pacific islands. He arrived in Okinawa in late July or early August 1945, a few days or weeks before the war ended. The ship he came over on was sunk a few days after he got off. He was sent to China about November 1945, and was first at Tientsin, China. After a few weeks there, he was assigned to LST 998 and went to Korea, Shanghai, Japan, and Hong Kong, then to Manchuria. His job was first returning civilians and soldiers from China to Japan, and later transporting Chiang Kai-shek's army from Shanghai to Manchuria. He arrived back in the States in early May 1946, after making brief stops at Iwo Jima, and Hawaii. He arrived in the States at San Francisco and after a brief stay at Seattle was discharged at Camp Wallace (near Houston) on May 28, 1946. He was a Pharmacist Mate 3rd Class in the Navy. He finished High School in Waxahachie and received his B. A. degree from the University of Texas in 1948. He married Mary Ruth





Davis, whom he met at the University, where she also received her degree. They were married August 6, 1949. She was born June 9, 1926, at Corpus Christi. They now have three fine children - Rebecca Dian, born January 25, 1953; John Michael, born September 2, 1957; and Merrimac Lee, born September 22, 1960. A fourth child, Laura Lee, was born May 30, 1959 and died June 1, 1959. Joe Mack Jenkins is now Executive Director of the Family Service Association at Lubbock. His work is to provide family and marriage counseling. He has previously worked for the State Department of Public Welfare in Marlin and Austin, and the Family Service Bureau in Houston, and the Community Council in Houston. The family hobbies are gardening and camping. He also received his Master of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Texas in 1952.

Two published articles about the Fiser family are worth quoting as follows:

"ANDREW M. FISER, a successful farmer of Falls County, was born in Henry county, Tennessee, September 10, 1850. He remained with his parents until January, 1888. In 1877 his father gave him fifty acres of the old home place, to which he afterward added until he owned 350 acres. He sold this place in 1890 and bought a farm of 571 acres, joining the town of Mooresville, 300 acres of which is under cultivation. He sold this place in 1891 and purchased a place of 457 acres in McLennan county, one and one-half miles from Robinson. Politically, Mr. Fiser is identified with the Democratic party.

He was married, October 27, 1874, in Falls county, to Lenora, a daughter of John L. Bowman, and they had one son, Arthur Lee, now attending the Southwestern University, at Georgetown, Texas. The wife and mother died September 11, 1875, and in 1889 Mr. Fiser married Ophelia, daughter of





Calvin W. Bratton. To this union has been born one child, Clara Lucile, now two years of age. Both are members of the Methodist Church."(9)

"LEANDER FISER, one of the successful farmers of Falls county, is a son of W. A. & Offa (Ridgeway) Fiser. The father was born in Robinson county, Tennessee, February 7, 1811, was engaged in farming in early life, and later in brick masonry, and was a firm supporter of the Methodist Church. Grandfather Henry Fiser was a Tennessee farmer, and a native of North Carolina, as were also the family for generations, the earliest representative having come from Germany. The Ridgeways are of English descent. The mother of our subject was born in Rutherford county, Tennessee, July 24, 1820. Mr. and Mrs. Fiser were the parents of six children: Eliza A., wife of Ed McCullough; Leander, our subject; Mary J., wife of Hardy Jones; Benjamin Franklin, deceased; Andrew M., of Mooresville; and Catherine, wife of G. W. Bowman. The parents moved to Kansas in 1855, settling in Cherokee county, near the present site of Baxter Springs; in 1861, settled in McDonald county, Missouri; in 1865 to McLennan county, Texas, and one year later located near Mooresville, Falls county, where the mother died April 30, 1890, and the father now resides with his daughter, Mrs. McCullough.

Leander Fiser, our subject, was born in Weakley county, Tennessee, May 28, 1843, and in August, 1862, he entered the Confederate army, enlisting as a private in Jackman's regiment, Company H, under Captain Cummings, and saw service west of the river until the close of the war. He

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- (9) "A Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas," The Lewis Publishing Co., 1893, p 738.





participated in the battles of Helena, Jenkins' Ferry, was in the Steele campaign, and was discharged at Fort Washita, in Chickasaw Nation. After the close of the war he located on his present farm of 400 acres in Falls county, 275 acres of which is cultivated. Mr. Fiser was married in this county, in January, 1869, to Emma, daughter of John Lewis Bowman, and they have had eight children: Anna, John Franklin (deceased), Andrew L., Lillie, Emma, Marvin, Offa, and Catherine. Politically, Mr. Fiser is identified with the Democratic party, has held the office of School Trustee, and both he and his wife are members of the Methodist Church."(10)

Mrs. W. Charles Wilson furnished me the following additional information about the Leander Fiser family:

#### PARENTS

Mother: Mrs. Emma Bowman Fiser, born November 13, 1848, and died August 20, 1924.  
Father: Leander Fiser, born May 28, 1843, and died May 26, 1920.

#### CHILDREN

Franklin Fiser: Born February 22, 1867. Died 1889, while at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas.  
Mrs. Anna Fiser Langford: Born November 11, 1869. Died May 14, 1937. Married to H. H. Langford. Three children (girls) live in Dallas and Waco.  
Andrew Fiser: Born March 22, 1874. Died March 26, 1913. Married to Druscilla Organ. One son.  
Mrs. Lillie Fiser Williamson: Born August 30, 1876. Died February 2, 1948. Married to E. E.

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(10) *ibid.*, p 811.





Williamson. Three daughters, one son. All live in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Mollie Emma Fiser Middleton: Born February 3, 1879. Died June 26, 1961. Married to Chas. S. Middleton. One daughter, one son. All live in Lubbock.

Bishop Marvin Fiser: Born November 10, 1881. Died March 27, 1937. Married, had one son. All live in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Offa Fiser Hurst: Born October 22, 1884. Died February 28, 1916. Married to Anist B. Hurst. One boy, one girl living in San Antonio, Texas.

Mrs. Katherine Willie Fiser Wilson: Born March 27, 1888. Married to William Charles Wilson. Lives in Cleburne, Texas. One son, William Charles Wilson, Jr., lives in Dallas, Texas.

#### EDITOR'S POSTSCRIPT

John Taylor Bowman moved his family to Haskell County, Texas, in the 1880's. There he died on March 18, 1925. His wife died in Waco, Texas on February 21, 1943. They are buried at Rule, Haskell County.

Georgia Ann Caroline (Bowman) Reed died in Bryan, Texas, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T. J. Preston, on July 2, 1902. Her husband, Wilson Reed, Sr., died in Brazos County, Texas, December 21, 1888. They are buried in the Reed family cemetery north of Bryan.

Mary Isabella ("Mollie")(Bowman) Morris died September 21, 1911. Her husband was born April 14, 1849 and died November 3, 1893. They are buried in the front of the cemetery at Mooreville, Falls County, Texas.

Margaret Jane and Leonidas F. Bowman moved to Oklahoma. She died December 8, 1898 near Noble,





Cleveland County, Oklahoma. He died in September 1925 in Oklahoma City. They are buried in the Dripping Springs Cemetery, Noble, Oklahoma. Mrs. Alvis Allen, daughter of Priscilla Bowman and J. F. Cook, gave me the following information about the Leonidas F. Bowman family:

- L. F. Bowman: Born January 10, 1840. Married to M. J. Bowman January 1, 1861. Died 1924.(11)  
Buried at Dripping Spring, Noble, Okla.
- M. J. Bowman: Born February 28, 1837. Died 1898.  
Buried at Dripping Spring, Noble, Okla.
- E. F. Bowman: Born October 19, 1861. Married J. D. Appleby October 28, 1884. Buried Tuttle, Okla.
- M. W. Bowman: Born April 2, 1866. Married J. D. Maxey November 12, 1884. Buried Lorena, Texas.
- Lee Bowman: Born November 13, 1867. Married Leota Smyer. Buried Rose Hill Cemetery, Okla. City, Okla.
- Priscilla Bowman: Born November 2, 1870. Married J. F. Cook December 23, 1886. Died October 2, 1948. Buried Memorial Cemetery, Okla. City, Okla. Husband died March 8, 1943.
- Georgia Ann Bowman: Born November 11, 1871. Married Frank Hyden. Buried Ardmore, Okla.
- Thomas Bowman: Born August 19, 1874. Married Lula  
\_\_\_\_\_. Buried Lorena, Texas.
- John Bowman: Born December 5, 1876. Buried Rose Hill Cemetery, Okla. City, Okla.
- Willie Bowman: Born December 25, 1878. Buried Noble, Okla.
- Ida Belle Bowman: Born December 6, 1882. Married Frank Routh. Buried Okla. City, Okla.

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(11) Mrs. Oma Bowman reports this date as Sep. 1925.





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2. Microfilm copies of census returns in The National Archives, Washington, D. C.
3. Deed, probate and marriage records in Brazos, Falls and McLennan Counties, Texas.
4. Microfilm copies of State tax records in office of Comptroller of Public Accounts, State Capitol, Austin, Texas.
5. "The History of Brazos County, Texas," Elmer Grady Marshall, unpublished thesis, The University of Texas, August 1937.
6. Confederate service records in The National Archives, Washington, D. C.
7. Family record in John Taylor Bowman family bible in custody of Mr. George K. Bowman, Senior, 122 Salisbury Drive, San Antonio, Texas.





8. Leander Fiser family records in custody of Mrs. W. Charles Wilson, 408 West Wilson Street, Cleburne, Texas.
9. Leonidas F. Bowman family records in custody of Mrs. Alvis Allen, 132 Twinleaf, San Antonio, Texas.

#### NEWSPAPERS

1. "The Daily Eagle," Bryan, Texas, Thursday, July 3, 1902, obituary of Mrs. Georgia Ann Caroline (Bowman) Reed.
2. "Waco Tribune-Herald," Waco, Texas, Sunday, April 1, 1962, story about Ann Bowman and Dagmar von Schoeler.
3. "The Houston Post," Houston, Texas, Sunday, July 29, 1962, story about Ann Bowman and Dagmar von Schoeler.

















